

DIA DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

Ser: L-004
13 January 1955

From: U.S. Naval Attache
To: Mr. E. Wendelin

Subj: Social Relations with Soviet and Soviet Orbit Officialdom

Ref: (a) American Embassy memo dated 10 Jan 1955 w/encl

1. In compliance with the request contained in reference (a), the following information is submitted on the general exchange of Soviet and Satellite efforts to develop social contacts with members of our staff, and our views on how best to carry out the purpose set forth in reference (a).
2. In general, this office has adhered closely to the instructions from the Chief of Mission concerning relationships or fraternization between American diplomatic personnel and the diplomats of the U.S.R. and Satellite countries. Most of our relations with Soviet orbit officialdom have been restricted to the exchange of civilities at official diplomatic functions. We have also instructed our personnel that all contacts, other than chance meetings, with Soviet and Satellite personnel be cleared with the Naval Attache and by him through the Ambassador's office.
3. We have noted that Soviet Attaches have demonstrated increasing signs of a desire to establish friendly social contacts with personnel attached to this office. Soviet Assistant Military and Air Attaches have been particularly noteworthy in this regard. Our officers, while not obstructing these friendly overtures, have adhered as closely as possible to the instructions as set forth in paragraph (2) above. Although these USSR Assistant Attaches have on occasion expressed strong hints to the effect that they would welcome invitations to our homes, the only occasion on which Soviet Attaches have been the guests of any member of this office was at an official cocktail party given by Captain Bleck on the occasion of the departure of Lt. J. E. Pearce, USN, former Assistant Naval Attache, and to introduce Lieutenants J. K. Welch, USN, and Vahn Lordigan, USN, Assistant Naval Attaches.
4. Generally speaking, it would be to our advantage to follow the existing instructions of the Ambassador on the subject and to place the burden of the betterment of social relationships on the Soviets. In other words, let them come to us. It is not believed advisable that any of our personnel adopt the initiative in developing social relationships. By following such a policy, we will be in a better position to carry out the intent of the instruction.

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5. It would be useful for a Standing Board, consisting of representatives from the major sections of the Embassy most likely to come in contact with Soviet-Satellite officialdom, to be formed for the purpose of recommending for Mr. Ohler's consideration its views on those operating policies and procedures best calculated to carry out the purpose of the instruction. In addition, this Board could meet periodically and act both as a clearing house for the exchange of information concerning approaches made by Soviet-Satellite officialdom and report on the results of any such contacts.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) L. G. Ditta

L. G. DITTA
By direction

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